



**Emidio Galea, Etobicoke  
Toronto Central**

**Category: Partner in Care**

**Submitted by Care Coordinator Heather Epp, from our Toronto Central geography**

Emidio has lived with and cared for his wife Carmen through her Parkinson's disease journey, which began more than 20 years ago. She is now living in long-term care, and he is anxiously waiting to join her on the spousal reunification program. In the meantime, he visits every second day to support and encourage her.

Emidio and Carmen came to Canada from Malta in 1985. They were both teachers there and once here she worked as a coordinator for the gifted children's program in the school board, travelling throughout the region.

When Carmen was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the 1990's, she and Emidio became actively involved in the current research and medical treatments that were available. She enrolled in a medical trial at Toronto Western Hospital. Emidio was critical in supporting this effort as it fell on him to manage the pumps and equipment daily, record data, engage caregivers and obtain supplies.

As Carmen's disease progressed, Emidio took on more of the physical care needs outside of the community support hours available, as well as taking on the management of financial and accommodation decisions that had previously been shared responsibilities within their marriage. They have two children whom they supported through advanced degrees. Now Harvard PhD graduates, they are both working in the medical research world, due in part to



their mother's diagnosis. Both parents are tremendously proud of them, but they do not live nearby.

As her disease progressed, all of Carmen's daily caregiving had fallen to Emidio, who also has his own health concerns. In 2020, they moved in to a retirement home together. Later in 2023, Carmen had to move in to long-term care after an acute illness led to her needing a more advanced level of care.

Until her recent move to long-term care, Emidio has been by Carmen's side every day and night, ensuring her needs are met through his strength, knowledge, and advocacy. He has transported her hundreds of times, in her wheelchair, to many specialists and appointments, and has written many letters to advocate for better access to community supports and services for those with Parkinson's. He looks forward to being by her side, day and night, again soon.

**Emidio is a shining example of a true Partner in Care. It is also clear that care coordinator Heather has been an amazing partner for this family. She has built an incredible relationship with them and was able to recount in great detail this family's history and journey in her submission. Thank you Emidio, for allowing us to share your inspirational story.**